surface vacuum treating said workpieces in at least one of said at least two stations.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising controlling at least timing of said transporting.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising performing said controlling by means of a freely programmable process controller unit.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of controlling the size of said station batches.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

50. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of controlling the size of said transport batch.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

52. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of controlling geometric arrangement of a station batch of at least one of said at least two stations.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

54. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of controlling geometric arrangement of said transport batch.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

56. The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of transporting workpieces to and from stations of said treatment facility grouped as transport batches and selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batches not to exceed the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batches to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of the station batch of a transport destination station.

58. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batches to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of the station batch of a transport departure station.

59. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces in at least one station of said treatment facility within a mobile magazine.

60. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces in at least one of said at least two stations within a mobile magazine.

61. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of transporting said workpieces to and from at least one of said at least two stations within a mobile magazine.

61
62. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of mutually and controllably isolating at least a part of stations provided at said treatment facility.

62
63. (New) A method for manufacturing surface treated workpieces comprising the steps of

loading said workpieces into a treatment facility comprising at least two vacuum stations;

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loading and unloading said at least two stations with workpieces grouped as a transport batch and

controlling said transport batch for loading or unloading said at least two vacuum stations and

surface treating said workpieces in at least one of said at least two vacuum stations.

63
64. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of controlling timing of at least one of loading said workpieces and of loading and unloading said at least two stations by means of a freely programmable process controller unit.

64
65. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of loading said workpieces to at least one of said at least two vacuum stations grouped as a station batch.

65
66. (New) The method of claim 65, further comprising the step of controlling the number of workpieces of said station batch.

66
67. (New) The method of claim 66, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

67/68. (New) The method of claim 63, further; comprising the step of controlling the number of workpieces of said transport batch.

68/69. (New) The method of claim 68, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

69/70. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of loading said workpieces into at least one of said at least two vacuum stations grouped as a station batch and controlling the geometric arrangement of said station batch.

70/71. (New) The method of claim 70, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

71/72. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of controlling the geometric arrangement of said transport batch.

72/73. (New) The method of claim 72, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process control unit.

73/74. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing said treatment facility with at least two vacuum stations for said workpieces grouped as station batches and selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batch not to exceed the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.

74/75. (New) The process of claim 74, further comprising the step of selecting said number of workpieces of said transport batch to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.

76. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising the step of selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batch to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport departure station.

77. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces in a station of said facility within a mobile magazine.

78. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces in at least one of said at least two vacuum stations within a mobile magazine.

79. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of transporting said workpieces within said treatment facility within a mobile magazine.

80. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising providing said transport batch within a mobile magazine.

81. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of controllably isolating at least a part of stations provided at said facility.

82. (New) A method for manufacturing surface treated workpieces comprising the steps of

vacuum treating said workpieces grouped as respective stations batches within at least two stations of a treatment facility;

controlling said station batches and surface treating said workpieces in at least one of said at least two stations.

83. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of controlling at least timing of said vacuum treating by means of a freely programmable process controller unit.

84. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of performing said controlling by controlling the number of workpieces of said station batches.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

86. (New) The method of claim 82, thereby performing said controlling by controlling geometric arrangement of said station batches.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, thereby performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

88. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of transporting said workpieces to and from at least one of said at least two stations grouped as a transport batch.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of controlling said transport batch.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising the step of performing said controlling by controlling the number of workpieces of said transport batch.

91. (New) The method of claim 89, thereby performing said controlling by controlling geometric arrangement of said transport batch.

92. (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising the step of performing said controlling by way of a freely programmable process controller unit.

93. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of transporting workpieces to and from stations of said treatment facility grouped as transport batches and selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batches not to exceed the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, further comprising the step of selecting said number of workpieces of said transport batches to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of a station batch of a transport destination station.

95. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of transporting said workpieces to and from stations of said facility grouped as transport batches and selecting the number of workpieces of said transport batches to be an integer fraction of the number of workpieces of the station batch of a transport departure station.

96. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces in a station of said facility within a mobile magazine.

97. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising the step of providing said workpieces within at least one of said at least two stations within a mobile magazine.